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From Mickey Mouse to Microsoft: Computer Animation Schools Combine Technology and Tradition

by Kirk Bangstad
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Online Degree Columnist

Well, look on the bright side. You're probably almost halfway there. You have a talent for drawing - that much is clear. Talent can go a long way, and those without out it generally don't last too long as an artist.

Being able to draw, and having an eye for visual art is one thing, but knowing what to do with that talent is another subject entirely. Your talent provides you with many options - some are more lucrative than others. You're the only one who knows where your true passions lie, but you should definitely take a look at all of your career options before making any long-term decisions.

In this week's article, I will discuss a career path that has satisfied many artists, both from a creative and financial standpoint - animation.

All Roads Point Toward Computer Animation

You have all probably seen the animated films that have come out over the past few years. Such animation, along with most of the quality commercial animation created today, is created using computer animation software.

Computer animation software is so advanced that it can scan the movements of the human body, and generate 3-D character animation that emulates those movements. This is why much of today's animation seems so lifelike.

Computer Animation Schools - Where the Preparation Begins

If you think animation might be up your alley, you should look into some of the computer animation schools and online degree programs offered. A reputable program will base its curriculum around the enhancement of drawing skills, but it will also incorporate computer drawing using state-of-the-art animation software.

With an online degree program, students have the ability to emerge with a refined sense of artistic craft, as well as graduate with software skills that can be applied immediately within the industry. In short, with the right education, you'll not only be good at what you do, but you'll be able to find a job doing it.

Animation is just one of the many career paths you can choose as an artist, but it is one that can be rewarding both financially and creatively. This is not the case with many forms of visual art. Analyzing this field, regardless of whether you go into it or not, will help you make more informed career decisions down the road.

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About the Author

Kirk Bangstad is an artist manager and singer working in Chicago, IL. His previous experience includes consulting for technology companies in the Silicon Valley and serving as a field director and publicist for a statewide political campaign. Kirk holds a B.A. in government from Harvard University.



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